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tubers; those cultivated for their stalks or leaves; those useful from their flowers or the parts enveloping them; fruits and grains. The third part is devoted to a résumé and conclusions, with valuable statistics.

The work is, of course, authoritative and is, moreover, exceedingly interesting. With it should be read the lengthy review of the work, by Dr. Asa Gray and J. Hammond Trumbull, in the *American Journal of Science* for April and May, 1883, containing valuable additions relative chiefly to American plants.

JACKSON'S VEGETABLE TECHNOLOGY.<sup>1</sup>—This is evidently a most carefully prepared bibliography of economic botany, and must prove of great utility. The author purposely excluded all books devoted to silk and cochineal, as not being strictly within the limits of the title as settled by the Index Society; and "most reluctantly the subject of the vine, its culture and products, simply on the ground of its enormous extent." The bibliography of the vine, he adds, in all its bearings would require a lifetime for its compilation. He has also excluded books and papers of simply horticultural, therapeutic, chemical, commercial or manufacturing interests, unless they contained a sufficient account of the raw products, its cultivation or whence obtained to justify their citation. The author does not claim that the work is complete, saying that "a complete bibliography of economic botany would require the labor of years." The number of entries in the present book is 3580, exclusive of translations and different editions. The index fills nearly 100 pages, is comprehensive, and adds greatly, of course, to the usefulness of the work.

SMITH'S DICTIONARY OF ECONOMIC PLANTS.<sup>2</sup>—The scope of this work is sufficiently indicated by the title; it is not confined to the cultivated plants. The author was officially connected, for more than forty years, with the Kew Gardens, and was thus practically acquainted with the largest collection of living plants, exotic and native, ever brought together. In regard to those points which DeCandolle has worked out with such care, the present work is deficient, still it is a useful book, arranged in the form of an index or dictionary.

#### RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

*Engelmann, Geo.*—The mean and extreme daily temperature in St. Louis for forty-seven years, as calculated from daily observations. Ext. Trans. St. Louis Acad. Sci., Vol. IV, 1884. From F. E. Nipher.

*Nipher, F. E.*—On the expression of electrical resistance in terms of a velocity. Ext. Trans. St. Louis Acad. of Science, Vol. IV, 1884. From the author.

<sup>1</sup> *Vegetable Technology*. A contribution towards a bibliography of economic botany, with a comprehensive subject-index. By BENJAMIN DAYDON JACKSON. Founded upon the collections of George James Symonds. London, published for the Index Society. 1882. 8vo, pp. 355.

<sup>2</sup> *A Dictionary of popular names of the Plants which furnish the natural and acquired wants of man in all matters of domestic and general economy. Their history, products and uses.* By JOHN SMITH. London, Macmillan & Co. 1882. 8vo, pp. 457.